

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3171

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3085

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, US

SUBJ: SISCO-BOUTALEB MEETING, OCTOBER 7

REF: STATE 240342

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR REPEATING REPORT OF YOUR OCTOBER 7 CONVERSATION WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB. WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH GROWING CONCERN VARIOUS REPORTS INDICATING MOROCCANS INTEND TAKE RASH ACTION AGAINST SPANIARDS OR ALGERIANS.

2. AS SEEN FROM HERE, MORROCCAN ACTION AGAINST EITHER TARGET PRESENTS NO-WIN PROPOSITION FOR UNITED STATES. SOMEONE IS GOING TO BE SORE AT US NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. BELEIVE WE SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE IMMEDIATE AND SERIOUS LOOK AT WHERE OUR MAJOR INTERESTS LIE AND SEEK TO LIMIT DAMAGE TO THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE ONE PURPOSE OF MOROCCAN SABRE-RATTLING MAY BE TO DRAG US IN DIPLOMATICALLY ON MOROCCAN SIDE.

3. DO NOT WANT TO BE SPECIAL PLEADER FOR ALGERIA, BUT WE HAVE GOOD DEAL TO LOSE HERE IN TERMS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WORKING SO PATIENTLY. AM INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH IMPORTANCE OUR STAKE IN MOROCCO, BUT THINK WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND FRAGILITY OF PAST MOROCCAN COMMITMENTS TO US AND UNCERTAINTIES

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THAT MILITARY ADVENTURE IS LIKELY TO CREATE, INCLUDING

POSSIBLE DOWNFALL OF REGIME. IN SPITE OF BOUTALEB'S
REMARKS I RECOMMEND WE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTRAIN
MOROCCANS, INCLUDING HALTING FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE
UNTIL CRISIS SUBSIDES.
PARKER

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NNN

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